



Indicative A response

Ten Mile Creek

Year 5	English
	Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE)

This document contains two Indicative A responses:

- Stimulus letter — Ten Mile Creek
- Alternative stimulus letter — Coopers Creek.

Ten Mile Creek. Section 1. Character profile

Table for collecting information from the stimulus letter

Letter writer's profile and characteristics	My thoughts about the letter writer	Why I think this about the letter writer	What key words suggest characteristics of the letter writer	Clues from the letter and other sources	Details of source material (website address, or book title and author)
Name	<i>AJ James</i>	<i>This is the name signed at the end of the letter.</i>	<i>I remain yours, AJ James</i>	<i>Letter structure includes a space for the writer's name at the end.</i>	
Approximate age	<i>30-40 years</i>	<i>He says he has sent gifts for the children and perhaps he is ready to have children of his own.</i>	<i>I have also sent you a few books and some coloured pencils for the children.</i>	<i>Family was very important and it was considered a goal for men and women.</i>	
Gender	<i>Male</i>	<i>He likes reading the paper and fishing. He calls himself Uncle Arthur.</i>	<i>I would enjoy such fishing. I received the Argus today. Tell Henry and John that Uncle Arthur does not forget them.</i>	<i>The Argus was a Melbourne newspaper in the late 1800s.</i>	<i>Googled the word "Argus" — it was a Melbourne newspaper in the 1800s. NLA, The Argus Index. <www.nla.gov.au/argus></i>
Birthplace	<i>England</i>	<i>He says he has memories of the ship, Euterpe. This could mean he has been on this ship or one like it.</i>	<i>Was it the "Euterpe"? It brings back many memories.</i>	<i>Euterpe was a ship used to transport immigrants in the late 1800s. Its name later changed to the Star of India.</i>	<i>Googled the word "Euterpe". <www.bruzelius.info/nautica/Ships/Merchant/Sail/E/Euterpe(1863).html> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_of_India_(ship)></i>
Occupation	<i>Property/sheep station owner</i>	<i>He mentions rain and drought. Farmers talk about these topics.</i>	<i>I must admit I am worried the drought will continue. We have had some good rains around Mildura, but it has not been enough as usual, very patchy and we want much more to ensure a good year ...</i>	<i>From 1877-1882 Mildura had a major drought. In 1886 Alfred Deakin began a large irrigation system to make the area suitable for farming.</i>	<i>Internet site has the history of Mildura and the irrigation system by Alfred Deakin. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mildura,_Victoria></i>

Likes	Fishing, family, reading the paper, cricket	He writes about fishing and says to give his love to the wife, children, and sister. He wishes to hear about a trip to the MCG.	Positive words: enjoy, give my love, very kind regards, very entertaining.	The MCG was founded in 1838 and the MCG site was chosen in 1853. The first cricket match was held in 1854. The first test between Australia and England was in 1877 and the first AFL game was in 1859.	The History of the MCG is on the internet. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Ground >
Dislikes	Drought, not enough rain	He seems worried when he talks about Mildura and says there has been some rain but not enough, and that he is worried the drought will continue.	Negative words: worried, want much more rain, drought.	Mildura was in drought at the time he wrote the letter. Farmers need rain for their crops and stock.	The history of the Victorian drought in the late 1880s is on the internet. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mildura_Victoria >
Relationship to the reader	Friend, or brother, or brother-in-law	Because he says "dear friend" but also he mentions uncles by name.	Uncle Arthur does not forget them and to get Uncle Edward to give them plenty of paddyrhack.	People usually call family members Uncle.	
Other information	Williamstown is on the water and has a pier.	Williamstown is near Melbourne.	A sixteen pound grey mullet was caught off the pier at Williamstown last month.	Williamstown was where ships would unload near Melbourne.	Williamstown is included in the history of Melbourne. < www.williamstowninfo.com.au/history.html >
	Paddywhack is an old word for "smack."	Paddywhack rhymes with smack and it may have been a form of punishment for children but the letter writer seems to be joking when he mentions it.	Give them plenty of Paddywhack.	My Gran says she remembers singing a song about an old man with the word paddyrhack. The song was about drumming and she would slap her thighs as she sang.	
	The Argus is a newspaper and it was sent to AJ from Melbourne.	He wrote the letter as soon as he got the newspaper, which could mean it took a month for the mail to arrive at Mildura.	I received the Argus today, sent to me by Edward. I notice a 16 pound grey mullet was caught ... last month.	The main form of transport in the late 1800s was horse and cart. That's why the mail took a long time to arrive.	The Argus was a real newspaper in the late 1800s and early 1900s. National Library of Australia, The Argus Index. < www.nla.gov.au/argus >

Writing the Character profile

Full name: *Arthur John James*

Date of birth: *27 November 1842*

Gender: *Male*

Birthplace: *England*

Nationality: *English-Australian*

Occupation: *Station owner (sheep station)*

Height: *187 cm*

Weight: *92 kg*

Eye colour: *Hazel*

Hair colour: *Brown*

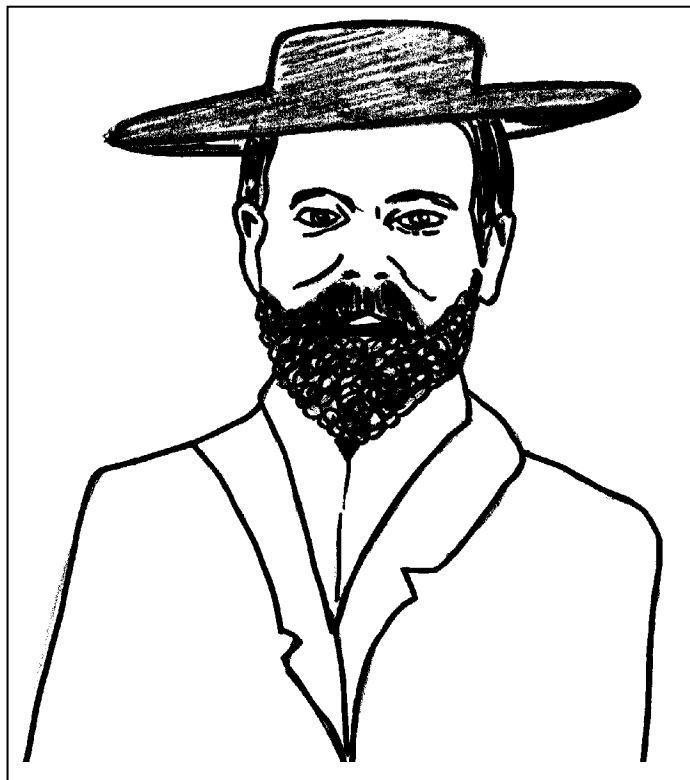
Education: *Sound elementary schooling*

Likes: *Fishing, reading and family*

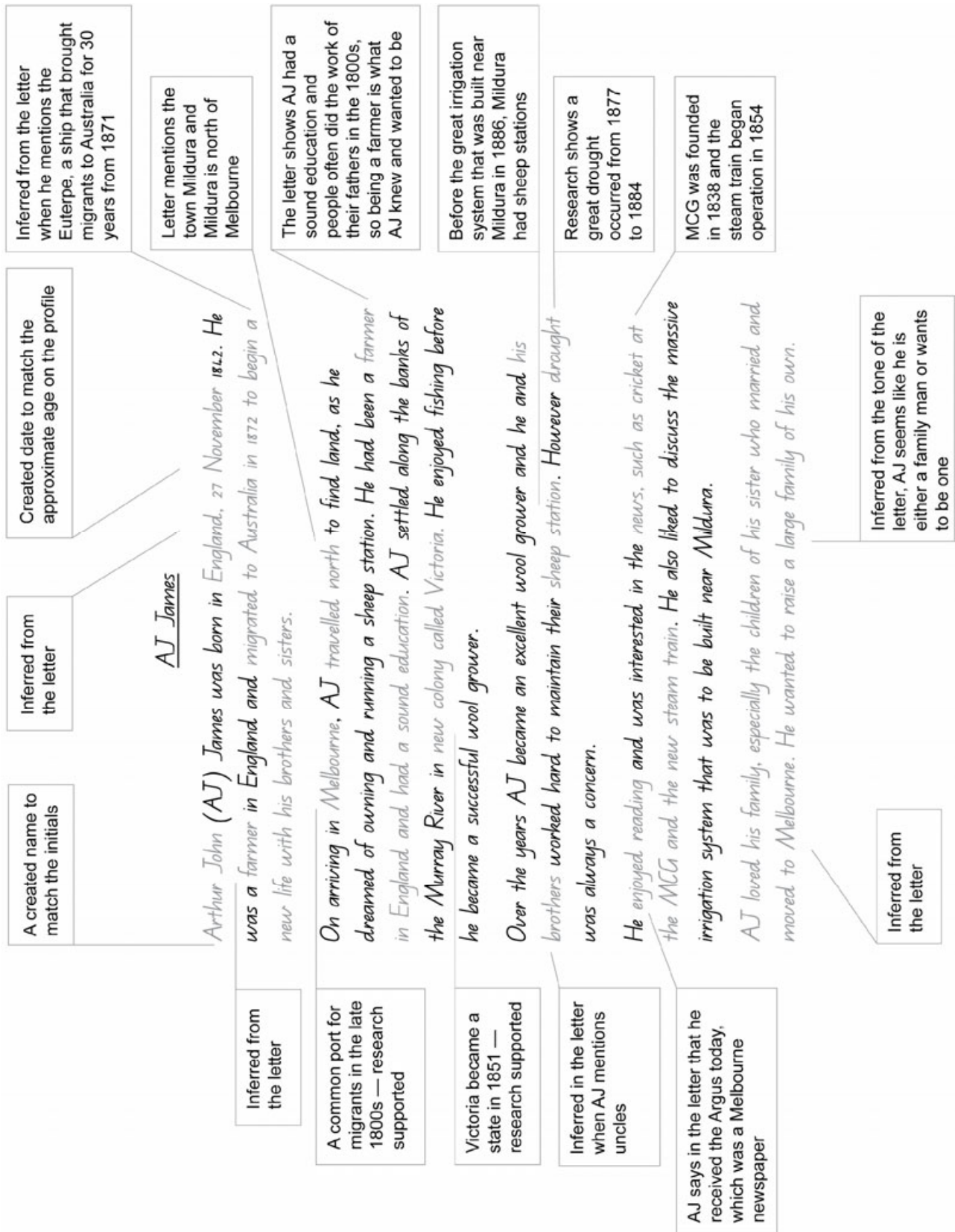
Dislikes: *Drought*

Family: *Arthur, Edward and possibly "the wife" who might be Henry and John's mother*

Other features: *He was very tall and had a beard.*



Describe this person in sentences. Use the information in your character profile.



Ten Mile Creek. Section 2. Roleplay

Criteria for an “A” standard

- An “A” standard displays a sensitive interpretation of the letter writer and reflects the time period. This includes the social situations and conversations they may engage in, which have been shaped in the roleplay.
- An “A” standard has a combination of appropriate word choice, body language, and gestures that communicate the writer’s character.
- An “A” standard incorporates original ideas from the students’ imaginations rather than copying known ideas or reproducing stereotypes.
- An “A” standard demonstrates planning and careful selection and experimentation with a range of props to support the characterisation of the writer. It excludes ideas that do not suit the purpose of the roleplay or time period.
- An “A” standard engages the audience.

Ten Mile Creek. Section 3. Reflection

To complete the following reflection, think about these differences and similarities and how you and your partner worked on the characterisation of the writer to create your roleplay.

Please complete the following on your own.

Did you and your partner have **similar** ideas? What did you agree on?

We both agreed he was a farmer, he liked fishing, he was male and he was close to his family. We agreed on these things because we felt each one was mentioned in the letter. For example, farmers talk about drought and rain and this letter does too.

Did you and your partner have **different** ideas? What did you disagree on?

We disagreed on a few things, for example, I thought he was much younger because he sounded young to me but Sam thought he was much older, like 70, because in the letter he says he had “fond memories” of the ship. Sam said she had a picture of her granddad in her mind when she read the letter. I thought he was younger because he was talking about doing things and to me that sounds like a young person.

We also disagreed about his relationships with his family. Sam said he was Uncle Arthur because at the bottom of the letter it says that “Uncle Arthur does not forget them” and she said that was his way of saying hello to the children. But I thought he

might be a friend of the family because the letter says, "My dear friend". I thought he might be a brother-in-law because he talks about "giving my love to the wife" in the last paragraph.

We also disagreed on why he no longer went fishing. I thought he was too busy on the farm, but Sam thought it was because he lived too far from the sea.

I think we had different ideas because we get different pictures in our minds when we read the letter. For example, Sam imagined someone older and that's because she has a granddad, but I don't have a granddad so I didn't think of that. I thought differently because I was thinking the man was younger because he sounded busy like my father.

Did you **change** your opinion of the writer after working with your partner? Why/why not?

We had to agree on some things to be able to make our roleplay. We agreed that he was a man but we had to make a new age for him. We decided to go halfway between our ideas and make him about 50 years old. We didn't think the things we disagreed on really mattered for the roleplay, but we both thought it was funny that we had different ideas at first. When we talked to each other we could see the other idea really clearly and why that person thought so.

What **evidence** did you find that supported your conclusions? (Refer to your table and character profile.)

I found out that the ship, Euterpe, was a real ship that brought immigrants to Australia in the late 1800s. I also found out that the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) was built in 1853 and that surprised me because I didn't think it was that old. I used Google and found out that steam trains were used a lot back then, and the Argus was a real newspaper. I also found out that a major drought happened in Victoria at the same time as the letter and that is why Alfred Deakin started a large irrigation plant near Mildura to make the area suitable for growing fruit trees. This really changed the area. I think all these things tell me that the man in the letter lived in Victoria and lived on a farm. I also think he was an immigrant because he remembers the ship. Many people came to Australia by ship in the late 1800s to start new lives.

Indicative A response

What have you learnt about reading texts when doing this task? That is, what other information can be **inferred** when you read?

I learnt that if you want to read something you have to take your time, because I had to read the letter a couple of times before I started to understand the person who wrote it. I learnt that finding out things using the internet or books or even television shows and movies can help you get ideas. For example, the ship was a real ship that transported immigrants to Australia in the late 1800s and there were sheep stations in the colony of Victoria. These facts helped me to understand the time and place in which the letter was written. For example, Mildura had a big irrigation plant built in the late 1800s.

I also learnt that sometimes I had to use my imagination to make up my mind about the person who wrote the letter. I learnt that other people will get different ideas in their mind when they read because they think about things differently, just like Sam did when she thought the man who wrote the letter was older than what I thought. So, I learnt that I can tell what a person is like by the way they write and the words they use to describe their life and their feelings. I also learnt that it is okay to have different ideas about the writer because these differences can be checked out by researching.

Coopers Creek. Section 1. Character profile

Table for collecting information from the Stimulus letter

Letter writer's profile and characteristics	My thoughts about the letter writer	Why I think this about the letter writer	What key words suggest characteristics of the letter writer	Clues from the letter and other sources	Details of source material (website address, or book title and author)
Name	<i>A is an initial for a name such as Anna</i>	<i>Anna was a popular name in the 1800s</i>	<i>Yours affectionately, A</i>	<i>Letters usually end in a salutation followed by the name of the writer</i>	
Approximate age	<i>16-18 years old</i>	<i>Her mother says she should be thinking about marriage.</i>	<i>Mother says I should think about marriage.</i>	<i>Girls married young in the 1800s.</i>	<i>My Nan said her grandmother (my great, great grandmother) was only 16 when she got married and that it was quite common in the 1800s.</i>
Gender	<i>Female</i>	<i>Anna writes about her feelings. She says her mother wants her to think about marriage.</i>		<i>Girls married young in the 1800s.</i>	<i>Letters on the internet from young girls who lived at that time. Qld State Library (SLQ) – Diary of Maria Steley. <http://enc.slq.qld.gov.au/vbook/slq/steley/index.htm></i>
Birthplace	<i>England, Liverpool</i>	<i>She says life is dull compared with Liverpool where she lived before immigrating to Australia with her family.</i>	<i>Liverpool</i>	<i>Liverpool is a city in England. In the late 1800s a ship called the Ariadne transported immigrants for 30 years from the UK to NZ and Brisbane.</i>	<i>Googled the word "Ariadne". <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/shipping/mig-qld1.htm></i>
Occupation	<i>No occupation but she would have worked around the house</i>	<i>She does not mention working, but she does say her father and brothers work. She would have helped her mother with the cleaning and sewing, etc.</i>		<i>Women usually didn't have jobs in the 1800s and an occupation was not mentioned.</i>	<i>A site called "Women In The 17th, 18th, And 19th Century" says what women did in the 19th century. <www.slashdoc.com/documents/9387L></i>

Likes	Horses	She misses the horses in Liverpool and says that her father intends to buy her one soon.	I miss our horses so much.	Horses were the main source of transport at that time.	Photos from that time. Movies and documentaries I've seen such as "Outback House" on the ABC.
Dislikes	Getting sick, running out of water	She talks about sickness and how low the water holes are.	Barcoo Rot, drought, measles	The Barcoo is a river in outback Queensland. Drought was a constant threat. A ship called the Ariadne was quarantined at Stradbroke Island for a few weeks.	Googled the word "Barcoo" and I used a map of Queensland < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcoo_River > More information from Google and the SLQ about the ship and what life was like on board. < www.manuscripts.qld.slq.qld.gov.au/home/features/previous/shipdiaries >
Relationship to the reader	Sister	She talks about Mother and Father and our brothers	Our brother, Jimmy	The "Ariadne" was quarantined for few weeks because of an outbreak of measles.	More information from Google and the SLQ about the ship and what life was like on board. < www.manuscripts.qld.slq.qld.gov.au/home/features/previous/shipdiaries >
Other information	Divine goodness is another name for God.	People who migrated to Australia brought their faith with them.	Thankfully, people recover	Barcoo Rot was a sickness that made arms or legs become infected from flies. Sometimes there was vomiting.	Queensland Government Natural Resources and Water, "Things that bite, scratch and sting". < www.nrw.qld.gov.au/museum/articles_complete/surveying/pests.html >
	Her mother cooked traditional dishes because she missed her home in England.	I think she talks about her mother because she might disagree with her about some things such as marriage and the meals her mother cooks. She also says that waiting for supplies causes hardship.	Mother insists on cooking traditional dishes like she did back home. I feel so lonely at times and wish I was home with you.	Drought was always a problem for people in the outback. No water meant their gardens didn't grow which could mean there were no vegetables to cook.	Reader's Digest, 1974, "Australia's Yesterdays".

Writing the Character profile

Full name: *Anna Kathleen McGill*

Date of birth: *7 August 1849*

Gender: *Female*

Birthplace: *England*

Nationality: *English-Australian*

Occupation: *No*

Height: *155 cm*

Weight: *51 kg*

Eye colour: *Blue*

Hair colour: *Red*

Education: *Elementary schooling*

Likes: *Reading, horse riding, meeting new people*

Dislikes: *Drought and sickness*

Family: *Brothers, sister, parents*

Other features: *She had long, curly red hair*



Describe this person in sentences. Use the information in your character profile.

Liverpool is mentioned in the letter	<u>Anna</u>	Anna was born in Liverpool, England, on 11 August 1850. She was a young girl in England when she immigrated to Australia with her parents and brothers in 1863 to begin a new life.	The ship Ariadne was mentioned in the letter
A created name to match the initials		Inferred from the letter as she mentions her brothers and father out shearing and her mother still wanting to cook traditional dishes with little supplies	On arriving in Brisbane, Anna and her family travelled west to find land as her parents dreamed of starting a new life. She was a student with a basic education and was expected to marry early. Anna and her family settled in the outback, near the Barcoo River. She enjoyed meeting new people and horse riding, but she missed having her own horses very much.
In the letter she states her mother suggests she starts thinking about marriage	Ships were often quarantined for health reasons	Anna missed her younger brother who died of measles on the ship Ariadne. They travelled to Brisbane on this ship which was quarantined at Stradbroke Island for two weeks because of a measles outbreak.	Meeting new people and liking horses are mentioned in the letter
Inferred from the letter as she often mentions her family members	Anna loved her family, especially her sister who married and stayed in Liverpool, England with her husband. She felt annoyed with her mother and father for taking her so far away from home and her sister. Her new life in the outback was hard and she often felt lonely.	She mentions she feels lonely in the letter and at times she seems annoyed to be living in the outback	

Coopers Creek. Section 2. Roleplay

Criteria for an “A” standard

- An “A” standard displays a sensitive interpretation of the letter writer and reflects the time period. This includes the social situations and conversations they may engage in, which have been shaped in the roleplay.
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- An “A” standard engages the audience.

Coopers Creek. Section 3. Reflection

To complete the following reflection, think about these differences and similarities and how you and your partner worked on the characterisation of the writer to create your roleplay.

Please complete the following on your own.

Did you and your partner have **similar** ideas? What did you agree on?

Yes, we agreed that the letter was written by a female and she was a sister to some of the people mentioned in the letter. We also agreed she had a younger brother who died because the letter says she misses their younger brother, Jimmy. We thought she was writing to her sister, Julia and maybe Julia lived in England still because it sounds like she moved to Australia with their parents and brothers and she really missed her sister. So we thought the family were immigrants because in the letter it says that they were on board the “Ariadne”, which was a ship that brought immigrants to Australia in the late 1800s.

Did you and your partner have **different** ideas? What did you disagree on?

We disagreed on the girl’s age. I thought she was about 16-18 years old but Alex thought she was about 22-24 years old.

I think we had different ideas because we get different pictures in our minds when we

Indicative A response

read the letter. Alex imagined someone older because he said girls get married when they are about 22 years old, but I disagreed because I read once that back then, girls got married as young as 16. I thought she was only 16 years old because I remembered what my grandmother said about how old her grandmother was when she got married back in the 19th century, and because in the letter her mother says she should think about marriage so I thought she was marriage age for that time period.

Did you **change** your opinion of the writer after working with your partner? Why/why not?

I didn't really change my mind about things after working with Alex, but he decided I was right about her age because he said he was thinking when girls get married today and said some are about 22, and he agreed then that girls back then did get married younger. So we made her about 16 for our roleplay because we both thought she was about that old. We already agreed on some other things, like her being a sister, which made creating the roleplay easier. I think talking to someone about what I thought of the letter writer really helped me confirm my ideas and see the person in my mind.

What **evidence** did you find that supported your conclusions? (Refer to your table and character profile.)

The first thing I found out was that the *Ariadne* was a real ship that brought immigrants to Australia in the late 1800s, and life on board the ships was really hard. Many people got sick and they had to be quarantined for weeks near an island before people were allowed off, which I think would have been awful because they would have already been on the ship for months. I also found out by reading other letters from girls at that time that they went to church and I think that is why she says, "Divine goodness" in the letter because she is talking about God and a lot of immigrants brought their religion with them when they moved. So I think she and her family were Christians. This helped them because they got sick so much and things like Barcoo Rot were real and it was hard to live in the outback. Some people, just like this family, tried to live like they did in England because in the letter she talks about how her mother insists on cooking traditional dishes like she did back home, but I think that might have been hard because they had to wait for supplies and waiting for supplies back then would have taken a long time.

What have you learnt about reading texts when doing this task? That is, what other information can be **inferred** when you read?

I learnt that if you want to read something you have to take your time, because I had to read the letter a couple of times before I started to understand the person who wrote it. I learnt that finding out things using the internet or books or even television shows and movies can help you get ideas. For example, the ship was a real ship that transported immigrants to Australia in the late 1800s and there is a river called the Barcoo in outback Queensland. These facts helped me to understand the time and place in which the letter was written. For example, outback Queensland is dry and hot.

I also learnt that sometimes I had to use my imagination to make up my mind about the girl who wrote the letter. I learnt that other people will get different ideas in their mind when they read because they think about things differently, just like Alex did when he thought the girl who wrote the letter was older than what I thought. So I learnt that I can tell what a person is like by the way they write and the words they use to describe their life and their feelings. I also learnt that it is okay to have different ideas about the writer because these differences can be checked out by researching.